IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 6, lines 17-18, please amend the forth paragraph with the following:

Fig 1D shows a correlation diagram between the levels of IL-2 and CREM mRNA. The value of 0.56 indicates that ~~them~~ the more CREM a T cell has, the less IL-2 it produces;

Page 21, lines 19-23, please amend as follows:

Anti-sense CREM ~~Δ~~ α down regulates the binding of CREM to the IL-2 promoter in vivo. To exclude non-specific effects of the anti-sense plasmid, we determined the levels of CREM binding to the IL-2 promoter after transfection of T cells with sense and anti-sense plasmids. As shown in Fig. **5A** transfection of normal T cells with anti-sense CREM α resulted in decreased binding of CREM to the IL-2 promoter

Page 26, lines 1-11, please amend as follows:

oligonucleotides have been used in humans without side effects ($_{36;37}$) and additional modes of delivery, including liposomes, could be considered. The fact that CREM is expressed in various tissues may limit its controlled suppression but anti-sense oligonucleotides that target their effect to CREM expressed in lymphoid cells would be desirable. Herein we showed that SLE T cells mainly express the isoform CREM~~Δ~~α.

In conclusion, in this study we have shown that the isoform CREM ~~Δ~~α bind to the IL-2 promoter and down regulate IL-2 production in SLE T-cells. Targeting the increased expression of CREM using anti-sense plasmid approaches has demonstrated a means to reverse decreased IL-2 production. Because IL-2 production is central for the ignition

and termination of the immune response, the development of means to control its expression in T cells is important.